

UNCLASSIFIED

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Page: 1

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12/27/78

M309

PAGE 01 BUENOS 10070 271819Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 IO-14 /088 W

-----024111 280737Z /12

R 271747Z DEC 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8855
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 10070

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/27/84 (HARRIS, F. ALLEN) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: YEARLY CHRISTMAS PRISON VISITS DENIED IN CORDOBA

1. (U) SOME 26 POLITICAL (PEN) PRISONERS BEING HELD
BY THE ARMY THIRD CORPS IN CORDOBA PRISON WERE DENIED
THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS VISIT WITH THEIR FAMILIES.
THIS EMBASSY, THE NUNCIATURA, CHURCH AND HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZATIONS HAVE RECEIVED PROTESTS FROM THE AFFECTED
FAMILIES.

2. [REDACTED] ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND FAMILY
REPORTS, SOME 220 PEN AND CLANDESTINE PRISONERS HAVE
BEEN REMOVED FROM THE THIRD CORPS AREA IN THE LAST
MONTH. RED CROSS AND FAMILY SOURCES REPORT THAT
THERE ARE STILL SOME 26 PEN PRISONERS DETAINED UNDER
THE PERSONAL JURISDICTION OF THIRD CORPS COMMANDER
MENENDEZ. TWENTY-THREE FAMILIES WERE REFUSED ADMISSION
BY PRISON AUTHORITIES ON CHRISTMAS DAY IN CORDOBA.
THE PRISON OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY TREATED THE
INCIDENT AS A JOKE.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
PAGE 02 BUENOS 10070 271819Z

3. [REDACTED] EMBASSY COMMENT: THE ISOLATION OF PEN
PRISONERS IN THE THIRD CORPS AREA--NO MAIL, NO

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
Document Number: 1978BUENOS10070

Page: 2

Channel: n/a

VISITORS--HAS BEEN A SUBJECT OF FREQUENT CRITICISM
IN ARGENTINA AND ABROAD. IN THE PAST THE ONLY
CONTACT ALLOWED EACH YEAR BETWEEN THE PEN
PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WAS A TWO HOUR
CHRISTMASDAY REUNION. WE ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT
WHY THE ANNUAL FAMILY VISIT WAS DENIED AND WILL
LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPRESS CONCERN:
CASTRO

[REDACTED]
NNN

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 2

UNCLASSIFIED